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FOR TFCO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/02/2019  
TAGS: [EFIN](#) [IZ](#) [KTFN](#) [PINR](#) [PTER](#) [TU](#)  
SUBJECT: TERRORISM FINANCE: PRE-NOTIFICATION OF U.S.  
DOMESTIC DESIGNATION OF IRAQ-BASED FREE LIFE PARTY OF  
KURDISTAN (PJAK)

Classified By: EEB/ESC DAS Douglas C. Hengel, for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

1. (U) This is an action request; see paragraph three.

2. (S) Summary: On or about February 4, 2009, the USG intends to designate domestically under E.O. 13224 the Iraq-based entity the Free Life Party of Kurdistan (PJAK) for its support to the Kongra-Gel (KGK, aka the Kurdistan Workers Party or PKK). The KGK was previously designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) on October 8, 1997 and domestically under E.O. 13224 on September 23, 2001 for acting and providing support to terrorists or acts of terrorism. Post is requested to pre-notify host government of this action. End summary.

3. (S) Action request: Embassies Baghdad and Ankara are asked to share with host government, on a close hold basis, the identifiers and background paper provided in para six. Action should be taken as soon as possible and no later than February 4. Posts may draw from the key objectives in paragraph four in preparing demarches. Points may be adapted to local circumstances. End action request.

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Key objectives  
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4. (S) (Releasable only to Iraqi and Turkish governments)

-- Inform host government that on/about February 4, 2009, the United States intends to designate domestically under E.O. 13224 the Iraq-based entity the Free Life Party of Kurdistan (PJAK) for its allied relationship and support to the Kongra-Gel (KGK, aka the Kurdistan Workers Party or PKK). The U.S. designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) on October 8, 1997 and domestically under E.O. 13224 on September 23, 2001 for acting and providing support to terrorists or acts of terrorism.

-- Explain to host government that we will not/not forward this name to the UN 1267 Sanctions Committee for inclusion on its consolidated asset freeze list, as it does not appear that the Free Life Party of Kurdistan is linked to Usama bin Laden, al-Qaida, or the Taliban.

-- Remind host government that under UNSCR 1373, all states are required to suppress and prevent the financing of terrorist acts and freeze without delay financial assets of terrorists and their supporters.

-- Express to host government that even though this is a U.S. domestic designation, we hope host government undertakes similar measures by freezing the assets of the Free Life Party of Kurdistan under its own domestic authority.

-- Request that host government share with us information concerning any actions that it undertakes, including the blocking of assets, to enforce sanctions against the Free Life Party of Kurdistan. In addition, we welcome any information that host government would like to share with us regarding the activities of PJAK in its country.

-- To avoid the flight of assets that might otherwise become subject to freezing, strongly urge host government not to disclose publicly or privately the proposed U.S. designation until action has been taken.

-- Share the identifiers and background information in paragraph six as a non-paper.

End key objectives.

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Reporting deadline  
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5. (SBU) Posts should report on any host government response no later than February 3.

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Identifiers and background  
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16. (SBU) Begin text:

Name: Free Life Party of Kurdistan  
AKAs: Kurdistan Free Life Party  
Party of Free Life of Kurdistan  
Partiya Jiyana Azad a Kurdistan  
PEJAK  
PEZHAK  
Location: Qandil Mountain, Irbil Governorate, Iraq  
Alt, Location: Razgah, Iran

Background

The Free Life Party of Kurdistan (PJAK)-based in Iran and Iraq-is a Kurdish opposition group that is controlled by FTO and Specially Designated Global Terrorist Kongra-Gel (KGK). The KGK leadership authorized certain Iranian-Kurdish KGK members to create a KGK splinter group that would portray itself as independent from but allied with KGK.

KGK determined that the name of the KGK splinter group would be PJAK and created PJAK to appeal to Iranian Kurds. KGK formally institutionalized PJAK in 2004 and selected five KGK members to serve as PJAK leaders-to include KGK-affiliate Hajji Ahmadi, who became PJAK's General Secretary.

KGK leaders also selected the members of PJAK's 40-person central committee. While certain PJAK members objected to the KGK selection of their leaders, KGK advised that PJAK had no choice.

As of April 2008, KGK leadership controlled PJAK and allocated personnel to the group. Separately, PJAK members carried out their activities in accordance with orders received from KGK senior leaders. In one instance, PJAK's armed wing, the East Kurdistan Defense Forces, had been acting independently in Iran. KGK senior leaders immediately intervened, however, and recalled the responsible PJAK officials to northern Iraq.

End text.

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Points of contact  
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17. (SBU) Points of contact: Post should deliver this request as soon as possible and send a response cable slugged for EEB/ESC/TFS Caitlin Ertel, EUR/PGI Lonni Reasor, NEA/I Jason Kondos, and Treasury OIA Mark Yen.

18. (U) Web resources: Web resources: English versions and translations of the background paper into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish are available on EEB Terrorism Finance's classified website  
([http://www.state.sgov.gov/e/eb/index.cfm?fuse action=public.display&id=fa28bb2b-94e2-446e-9 99d-50547bb5be13](http://www.state.sgov.gov/e/eb/index.cfm?fuse%20action=public.display&id=fa28bb2b-94e2-446e-9%2099d-50547bb5be13))

Alternatively, access the State Department's classified site, click Bureaus and Offices, click E, then EEB, then Terrorist Finance.

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